

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 11

LOS ANGELES TIMES
4 SEPTEMBER 1981

FBI Relied on Him for Years

Trusted Russian Now Under Suspicion

NEW YORK (AP)—A Russian diplomat code-named Fedora, once considered a reliable double agent by the FBI, now is thought by the bureau to have been working for Moscow all along, the Reader's Digest said.

In its October issue the magazine says Fedora was an important source of corroboration for the story given by KGB defector Igor Nosenko when the CIA was investigating whether Nosenko was sincere or a Soviet plant.

In addition, information from Fedora was accepted at the White House and was used in the Pentagon Papers case, the Washington Post said Thursday in a story based in part on the Reader's Digest article. The magazine article was adapted from a book to be published in November, "Shadrin: The Spy Who Never Came Back," by Henry Hurt.

The Post also said one reason President Richard M. Nixon tried to keep a lid on the Watergate investigation may have been to keep Fedora's cover as a U.S. agent from being blown.

The Reader's Digest article said the FBI last year reached the "electrifying conclusion that Fedora was a Soviet agent." But the CIA, it said, still publicly accepts Nosenko, pays him \$50,000 a year as a consultant and permits him contact with secret operatives.

When he defected in 1964, Nosenko was subjected to years of interrogation and captivity, during which the CIA leaned toward the belief that he was a Soviet plant, the magazine said. However, doubters were succeeded in the CIA by others who believe in Nosenko, it said.

When around the same time Fedora, a United Nations diplomat, offered to work for the United States and corroborated Nosenko's story, the FBI embraced Nosenko because FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wanted Nosenko to be accepted, the article said.

Hoover's interest, it said was in Nosenko's contention that the KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency, never had any interest in the late Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused

assassin of president John F. Kennedy who had defected to the Soviet Union in 1959.

Hoover said that if Nosenko was believed, Oswald would be viewed as a "lone nut" by the Warren Commission, which was preparing its report on Kennedy's assassination. That would take the FBI off the hook for Oswald's being at large in Dallas in 1963 when the President was shot, the magazine said.

Seven years later, in the Pentagon papers case, Fedora fed the FBI information that the Soviet Embassy in Washington had been given a complete set of the government documents, the Washington Post said.

The papers were a secret history of American involvement in Vietnam that the Nixon Administration tried to prevent the New York Times from publishing.

The Post said this information from Fedora helped prompt the White House to form the "plumbers" unit, which committed burglaries in the name of national security. It said Nixon later feared that Fedora would be compromised if Watergate investigators uncovered activities of the plumbers.